

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



Held in Christ, Remembered in Hope

EPHESIANS 1:11-23

This week's reading reminds us of the deep truth at the heart of our faith — that "in Christ we have obtained an inheritance." We belong to God, chosen and loved, and marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit. Our lives are not random or forgotten; they are part of God's great purpose, held in His mercy and grace.

As we mark All Souls' Day, we pause to remember those who have gone before us — loved ones, friends, and faithful members of our community who now rest in God's presence. In remembering them, we are reminded that the bond of love does not end with death. We remain connected in the great communion of saints, surrounded by a cloud of witnesses who share with us the hope of resurrection.

we are looking forward in hope.

Paul's prayer in Ephesians is full of that same hope: that our hearts may be enlightened to know "the hope to which God has called us," the richness of our inheritance, and the greatness of His power shown in Christ. This is not a distant or abstract hope, but one made real in Jesus — who conquered death and now reigns over all things.

As we give thanks for those who have shaped our lives and faith, may we be strengthened to live each day in that same hope. May the light of Christ shine in our hearts, bringing peace, comfort, and assurance that all souls rest safely in His eternal care.

**SUNDAY 2ND
NOVEMBER
2025**

ALL SAINTS DAY

FIRST READING

DANIEL 7:1-3; 15-18

PSALM

PSALM 149

SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 1:11-END

GOSPEL

LUKE 6:20-31

SERVERS

GRAHAM LAMB

ANTHEA GEE

FIRST READING

GLENIS MCCARTHY

PSALM

PAUL HEALEY

SECOND READING

GRAHAM LAMB

INTERCESSIONS

DAVE CALLIGHAN

SIDES PERSON

DARRELL & JENNIFER

INGALL

JUNIOR CHURCH

DONNA DAGLISH (L) &

FIONA LAMB (A)

Collect All Saints day

God of holiness,
your glory is
proclaimed in every
age: as we rejoice in
the faith of your
saints, inspire us to
follow their example
with boldness and
joy; through Jesus
Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional

O worship the King

Gradual

Let all the world

Offertory

For all the saints

Communion

Make me a channel

At the name of

Jesus

Recessional

Video

All Souls' Day, a time of reckoning with the past

The early Church was slow to dedicate a liturgical day to offering prayers and masses to commemorate the faithful departed. But in time prayers were offered on behalf of dead monks, that they might attain 'the Beatific Vision' through purification, which the Church later described as Purgatory. Odilo, the powerful abbot of Cluny, (d 1049) decreed that All Souls' Day should follow the feast of All Saints' Day.

At least four ancient English dedications are known, the most famous of which are All Souls College, Oxford and the church in Langham Place in London.

In bygone centuries All Souls' Day was certainly uncomfortable for anyone who had wronged a person who had then died. For it was believed that souls in purgatory could appear on earth on this day, in the form of ghosts, witches or toads, to haunt anyone who had wronged them in life.

On a more cheerful note, it was also believed that you could help the dead on this day by almsgiving in cash or in kind. Some of these beliefs seem to have been caught up in the popular customs of Hallowe'en.

When the Reformation came, the Protestants disregarded the idea of Purgatory, and this feast day remained with the Roman Catholic Church.

4th November - Charles Borromeo, the un-ordained archbishop

Why should being a 'lay' person stop you from as full a ministry as being ordained? Here is a saint for all lay people who suspect they can do as good a job....

Charles Borromeo was an Italian who lived in Milan from 1538 to 1584. His uncle, Pope Pius IV, made him Archbishop of Milan three years before Charles even became a priest, let alone a bishop. Charles, however, was one of the ablest and most compassionate Christian leaders of his age. He established theological colleges to train future clergy, encouraged children to be taught the Christian faith, and increased the help given to the poor.

Prayer for November 2025

Heavenly Father,

Here we are in November – the month of short, dark days. A dreary, difficult month, unless you have a birthday! Lord, it seems as if the world is permanently in November at the moment. So much is so difficult for so many people, through no fault of their own. And it seems to go on and on.

Lord, would You bring your healing light into the world's darkness. Bring transformation, compassion and a softening into the hearts of those with responsibility for the conflict and the suffering, that they might work for peace for all people. We know that nothing is impossible for you, Lord, so we pray in faith – and in the name of Jesus.

Amen

By Daphne Kitching

In your prayers this week....

Anne and her family; Anthony; Jean Angell; Lesley; Piper Fletcher; Alyson Healey; Peter Jeffery; Terry Marsden; Michael Parker; Maralyn Pawson; Ruben; Carol Sharp; Karen Spencer; Vanessa Starsmore; Christopher, Stella and Will Streidling; Victor Smyth; Kelly Swift; Christine Russell; Lisa White; Peter Wilkins.



This weeks flowers are in Memory of Willie Bottomley

If you would like flowers in church either in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special day please speak to Angela W



The boiler only worked if the
Verger switched it on

From the Parish Prayer list:

The Bishop of Leeds, Bishop Nick; The Diocese of Leeds; Back Pleasant Street; Back Wakefield Road; Back Wharf Street Bairstow Lane; Bairstow Mount; Baldwin Yard; Bank Road; Bank Street



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The 3 'R's - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - are all about minimising the amount of waste we produce, reusing products as much as we can, and remembering to recycle any materials that can be used for a new purpose.

Blessed are those who remember how God looks at the world after each day of Creation and sees that it is good, very good.



Norman
Lightowler

Quotes

Men best show their character in trifles, where they are not on their guard. - Arthur Schopenhauer

Happiness is not the end of life; character is. - Henry Ward Beecher

Catty remarks have more lives than a cat. - Anon

Why is 'abbreviation' such a long word? - Anon

Next week

SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER
2025
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, 3RD
BEFORE ADVENT

FIRST READING

JOB 19.23-27A

PSALM

PSALM 17.1-9

SECOND READING

2 THESSALONIANS 2.1-5,13-17

GOSPEL

LUKE 20.27-38

SERVERS

DAVE GILL

ANTHEA GEE

FIRST READING

PAUL HEALEY

PSALM

HELEN PEDLEY

SECOND READING

DAVE GILL

INTERCESSIONS

PETER HENRY

SIDES PERSON

TBC

JUNIOR CHURCH

DANTHEA GEE (L) & ALYSSA HARGREAVES (A)

DIARY

Monday

9:30 Morning Prayer in church

Tuesday

10am Coffee Morning

11.30am Midweek service of Holy Communion

Wednesday

5.45pm Bible Study

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

10am Coffee Morning

5pm Film night

Sunday

10.40am Act of remembrance, Crow Wood Park

4pm Holy Communion

Look Back Look Forward

The month began with a visit from Rabbits class from Tuel Lane Primary School. The children always ask such interesting questions and really seem interested in what happens in Church. Anthea and I have also done assemblies every Tuesday and Wednesday, and we attended a meeting with the school about what more we can do to teach our faith to the students.

We had the pleasure of Tuel Lane and Christ Church School hosting their Harvest Festival in Church. The staff and children worked really hard and put on a great show. It has been said that the school is now the gathering place of the community, and I think that is true. These links with the school are a great way to teach the faith and connect with local families. The service was only able to take place because of the hard work by Peter and Dave Towler, and I would like to thank them again for all their efforts.

I had to leave the Harvest Festival a little early for the Clergy Study day. This day was bittersweet as it was very informative, but it would be the last event Bishop Nick would host. Bishop Nick spoke about setting up the diocese and the lessons learnt during that time. One of the key messages from Bishop Nick was that he wanted us to be bold. He wanted us to take more risks and remember that if we fail, what is the harm?

Messy Church started again this month and was very well attended. It is wonderful to see so many people in Church. It was very busy but everyone I spoke to had a really good time and appreciated us putting it on. We managed to feed all the children and the adults who wanted food, and I want to thank all of the volunteers, especially for covering the time I needed to go and pick up Tabitha. We also held movie night, and Fiona had the great idea of producing golden tickets to give out to the school with the dates of future movie nights on.

The Deanery Synod was held this month. There was a lot of positive news, but the main takeaway was the financial struggles across the diocese. The diocese has already reduced its staff by over 50% and the impact will start to be felt in the number of clergy that can be employed by the diocese. This does not mean vicars will be moved on or out of a job, but it does mean that future vacancies may be hard to fill. We all need to make sure we are doing all we can to encourage new members and to give all that we can.

Looking forward, we will continue to do Morning Prayer. I have started doing it in Church every Monday at 9:30. Please do attend if you can. I will start a BCP service every Thursday at 6:30 – unless Messy Church is on. I will also start a Church History/Theology course in November.

November is the start of the busy period in the Church. We have the Remembrance Day services and assemblies, which are always a humbling time of reflection. We have visits from New Road school and the Buble and Bubbles night as well.

Rev. Tommy

What is Parish Share?

Following on from Revd Tommy's sermon last week when he mentioned Parish Share. This refers to the financial contribution our parish is asked to make to support the mission and ministry of the Church. It primarily covers the costs of clergy stipends and their housing.

With Parish Share the Diocese are able to ensure:

- Every communion is celebrated*
- Every sermon is preached*
- Every bereaved family is comforted*
- Every school assembly takes place*
- Every baptism and wedding is ministered*

Every person is shown the love of Christ through our compassion and comfort.

Parish Share Agreements Process

The Diocese are taking a new approach to Parish Share by opening up the lines of communication between the parishes and the diocese. We are going to do this by visiting every parish in the diocese on a rolling three-year basis. The joint meeting for Christ Church, Sowerby Bridge is January 2026.

The Bible and Parish Share

Using the Parish Share system means that the Diocese are able to offer mission and ministry across the whole of the Diocese. More importantly perhaps, resourcing the work of the church this way follows some principles we find in Scripture. God is our Heavenly Father whose nature as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is to invite us to be in a relationship with Him, and with one another. Parish Share is one way we act, as Christians, to fulfil our calling and even reflect God's own relational nature.

Christ Church's Parish Share for 2025 totals £24,442. This needs to be paid by 31 December 2025. So far we have forwarded £12,250 and a further £2,100 will be sent by 2 December. This is a shortfall of £10,092.

On top of paying the Parish Share we have the normal energy/water bills, insurance, internet, photocopier rental and repairs to our Grade 2 listed building to name just a few.



Remembrance Sunday.

There will be no service in church next Sunday Morning. An act of remembrance will be held at the Memorial Gates, Crow Wood Park starting at 10.40am. Our service in church will be at 4pm

Christmas Fair

It's that time again when we ask for your help and support. we are looking for donations of:

Tombola prizes

Raffel Prizes

Cakes for the cake Stall

Please speak to either Angela Wilkins or Rebecca Lumb

Dates for your Dairy.

Saturday 22 November – Buble and Bubbles – tickets £10.

Saturday 29 November – Christmas Fair, 10.00am-4.00pm.

Saturday 13 December – Live Nativity at St. Paul's Church, Sowerby Bridge.

Saturday 13 December – Family Film Night in Church. Doors open 5.00pm, film starts 5.30pm.

Thursday 18 December – Nine lessons and Carols, 7.00pm with Friendly Brass Band accompanying some carols.

Saturday 20 December – Christians Together Carol singing at Tesco, Sowerby Bridge, 11.00am-12.30pm. All very welcome.

Sunday 21 December – Christingle service, 4.00pm.

Wednesday 24 December – Midnight Communion, 11.30pm.

Thursday 25 December – Short Christmas day service, 10.30am.



Bubl  and Bubbles!

Seth McNamee
as Michael Bubl 



*A wonderful way to
start your
Christmas season.*

**Saturday 22nd November
7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**Tickets: £10 Adults | £5 Children
£25 Family**

**Includes a complimentary glass of
bubbles or soft drink**

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

**Buy tickets online or in church
www.christchurchsb.org.uk**

Find us on
www.christchurchsb.org.uk



Using your smart device,
scan the QR code to join
'Hebrews Coffee' Wi-Fi



Once connected
scan the QR code
below



Captions* will appear once
the Service / Event starts.

*Captions are auto
generated and will include
errors

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds

*Listening to the Music of the Soul -
The Archbishop of York's Advent
Book 2025*
By Guli Francis-Dehqani, SPCK,
£10.99

When it comes to inhabiting life fully, Mary is surely one of our greatest role models. 'My soul magnifies the Lord,' she sings in the Magnificat. Her spirited response to the Angel Gabriel's announcement that she is to bear the Son of God is rich in nuance, contradiction and paradox.

These very characteristics inspire Bishop Guli to make connections between the themes of Advent and her own experiences – and to invite us to do the same.

Bishop Guli's forced exile from her homeland has echoes of the flight into Egypt; the murder of her brother Bahram during the Iranian Revolution of the slaughter of the innocents. She writes intriguingly of how angels continue speaking to us today; how fear can prevent us from living well in the present; how pain and loss can be transformed by the power of beauty.

Deepening its resonance, each chapter is linked to a piece of music, prompting us to consider: what are the enduring melodies that sustain us as the vibrant stories of our lives unfold.

Smile Lines

Careful!

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing the old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. The lady thought for a moment. "Only the Ten Commandments."



Church News 2025 Year C

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Ordinary people Sharing God's love in our world.
Growing in faith. Living by prayer. Loving God's word.
Living Loving Learning.